

## ER Site No. 161: Bldg 6636 Septic System

ADS: 1295

Operable Unit: Septic Tanks and Drainfields

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### Site History

ER Site 161 includes the septic system serving Building 6636. Bldg. 6636, the control building for the Nondestructive Test Facility, is located in the southeast quadrant of Technical Area (TA) III, about 0.4 km (0.25 mi) west of Building 6630. The building was constructed in 1971 for monitoring climatic tests and for developing X-ray film. From 1971 to 1989, approximately 3400 L (900 gal) of waste photographic processing chemicals containing silver and sodium dichromate were discharged to the septic system. Since 1989, the waste photographic chemicals were containerized for disposal off site. Currently a silver recovery cartridge is attached to the waste line from the photoprocessing equipment and the facility is connected to the sanitary sewer system. The Nondestructive Test Facility (Bldg. 6635) is located immediately southwest of Bldg. 6636. The building contains floor drains in the northwest and southeast corners of the building, which discharged to the Bldg. 6636 septic system. These two drains may have received ethylene glycol coolant from past spills within Building 6635.

The septic system consists of a 2850-L (750-gal) septic tank located about 12 m (40 ft) south of Building 6636, and a drainfield consisting of ten 18-m (60-ft) distribution lines constructed of 10-cm (4-in.) vitrified clay tile (VCT), located outside the outer perimeter fence. Estimated effluent rates range from 38 L/day (10 gal/day) to 3800 L/day (100 gal/day). The septic system is no longer in use. All discharges are now directed to the sanitary sewer system.

The site is approximately 140 meters (461 feet) above the regional water table.

### Constituents of Concern

The constituents of concern are primarily photoprocessing chemicals (silver, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, and cyanide). No releases of radioactive contaminants are known to have occurred.

## Current Hazards

No known surface or subsurface hazards have been identified, based on environmental soil and soil-gas sampling that has been conducted at the site.

## Current Status of Work

Analysis of the tank contents was completed in 1994.

A passive soil gas survey was completed in 1994.

Soil sampling in the drainfield and around the septic tank was performed in 1994.

Wastes from the septic tank were removed for disposal in 1995. The tank was decontaminated, and tank concrete samples were collected to verify that no COCs remained. The tank was determined to be clean and was backfilled with clean soil. The abandoned drainfield drainlines are still present at the site and are buried at an average depth of about 7.5 feet below the surface.

A confirmatory sampling No Further Action (NFA) proposal was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department/ Hazardous Radioactive Materials Bureau (NMED/HRMB) in July 1996. NMED issued a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) in June 1998, and SNL/NM responded to the RSI in November 1998. NMED issued a second RSI in June 2000.

## Future Work Planned

Additional work may be completed at this site pursuant to the Small Septic Systems sampling and analysis plan (SAP).

## Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

One thousand gallons of non-regulated waste was disposed to the sanitary sewer.

**Information for ER Site 161 was last updated Dec 11, 2001.**